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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/544,222

08/02/2005

Michael Smolong

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EXAMINER

IRVIN, THOMAS W

ART UNIT

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DELIVERY MODE

06/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/544,222	Applicant(s) SMOLONG ET AL.	
	Examiner THOMAS W. IRVIN	Art Unit 3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The replacement specification was received on February 27, 2008. This replacement is accepted by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward (5,279,391) in view of Hauser (4,420,990).

In Re claim 11, Ward discloses a lubricating device comprising: gear stages (24,26,28,30,32,34) mounted next to one another and dynamically connected to one another; a lubricant circuit having at least one filter (48) therein, having a lubricant supply (51) for providing lubricant to said first gear stage, having a lubricant inlet (46) for removing lubricant from said second gear stage, and circulating lubricant drawn from said lubricant outlet to said filter for cleaning and then to said lubricant supply. Ward further discloses an immersion bath (40), but fails to disclose individual immersion baths for the gear stages.

Hauser teaches adding a filler (18) to the inside of a transmission casing (11) which separates the gears (A,B,C) such that they have separate immersion baths which are filled with lubricating oil. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the transmission of Ward, to include transmission filler, as taught by Hauser, to occupy most of the space in a transmission between the gears and the housing (11), thus reducing the amount of lubricant necessary to lubricate the gears.

In Re claims 14 and 15, Ward further discloses a suction device, motor pump (44), an injection device, nozzle (51), mounted diagonally opposite one another in the upper and lower area of the transmission housing.

In Re claim 16, Ward further discloses that the filter unit (48) is mounted between the motor pump unit (44) and gear housing (12) in the lubricant circuit.

Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward (5,279,391) in view of Hauser (4,420,990) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Sann et al. (7,279,091).

Ward, as modified, teach the claimed invention except failing to teach the specifics of the filter unit.

Sann et al. teach, with reference to Fig. 1, a filter unit (10) having a first fine filter (12), which is safeguarded with a bypass (22), and a coarse filter (32) connected in series with the first filter. The filter fineness of the coarse filter meets the limitations of being approximately 5 to 10 times greater than the filter fineness of the fine filter. I

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the transmission, taught by Ward as modified, to include a filter unit with two filters and a bypass, as taught by Sann et al., to fully strain the lubrication oil of any contaminants.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hambric (4,590,820) in view of Ward (5,279,391) and Hauser (4,420,990).

Hambric discloses a wind power station comprising: first and second planetary gear stages (see Fig. 1) mounted next to one another and dynamically connected to one another; a lubricant circuit (46), having a lubricant supply for providing lubricant to said first gear stage; and an immersion bath (interior of 14b) receiving said gear stages. Hambric further shows in Fig. 1 that the gears are spur gears. Hambric fails to disclose specifics of the lubricating device.

Ward discloses including in a gearing unit (10), a lubricant circuit having at least one filter (48) therein, having a lubricant supply (51) for providing lubricant to a first gear stage (34), having a lubricant inlet (46) for removing lubricant from a second gear stage (24), and circulating lubricant drawn from said lubricant inlet to said filter for cleaning and then to said lubricant supply.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the wind power station to include a lubricant circuit with a filter, as taught by Ward, to provide clean lubricant to the gearing of the power station unit, thus increasing the lifespan of the unit.

Ward fails to disclose individual immersion baths for the gear stages.

Hauser teaches adding a filler (18) to the inside of a transmission casing (11) which separates the gears (A,B,C) such that they have separate immersion baths which are filled with lubricating oil. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the power station unit of Hambric, as modified, to include transmission filler, as taught by Hauser, to occupy most of the space in a transmission between the gears and the housing (11), thus reducing the amount of lubricant necessary to lubricate the gears.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS W. IRVIN whose telephone number is (571)270-3095. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Alt Fri off (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on (571) 272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas W. Irvin/
Examiner, Art Unit 3683

/Robert A. Siconolfi/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3683